



## Chapter

# 13

## Funding

**This chapter discusses modifications to the current funding structure to support the SWMP actions.**

### *The City's Solid Waste Management Plan Funding Strategies*

This chapter describes the City's plan for funding its solid waste management (SWM) system over the next 20 years. The current SWM system funding structure is discussed in Chapter 5. This chapter discusses modifications to the current funding structure to support the SWMP actions.

### Future Funding Considerations

The four elements of the City's current funding structure that will be modified to support the SWMP actions plans are: (1) the residential collection fee structure, (2) City SWM program administration, (3) public outreach and education, and (4) establishment of a household hazardous waste (HHW) program. These elements are discussed in more detail below.

### Residential Collection Fee Structure

Currently, the costs of solid waste collection and disposal are a component of the real estate taxes. The City will separate these costs as a discrete line item to show each household their solid waste collection and disposal costs.

As part of this SWMP, the City will implement a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) collection system, which requires the City to bill each individual household. Under the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) collection system, City residents who receive City collection services will be charged based on the amount of trash they discard, creating an incentive to generate less trash. PAYT provides a more equitable billing system for trash collection

and disposal, where those who generate more waste pay more, while residents who recycle and prevent waste are charged less.

The City will evaluate the best method to bill for trash collection under PAYT. An interim step will be placing costs associated with trash collection and disposal on individual water bills or as a line item on real estate tax bills.

The City will also explore the implementation of either a two-tiered (fixed fee + “per container” fee) or multi-tiered rate system (fixed fee + variable fees for different container sizes), as these systems ensure that fixed costs are covered. The separate “per container” charge is used to cover the variable costs.

The City will continue to receive user fees from residents for collection of bagged yard waste (50 cents per bag) and bulk waste (“special pickups”).

Residents, schools, and businesses receiving collection by private haulers will continue to be billed at the market-driven rate.

### **City SWM Program Administration**

In order to implement the SWMP actions, the City’s Department of Environmental Services (DES), Engineering Division (Office of Recycling) will require additional funding and/or staffing. Currently one staff member, the City’s Recycling Coordinator, is responsible for most SWM planning, program development, waste reduction and recycling outreach and education, recycling contracts management, and solid waste code enforcement in the City. The City requires additional staff members to implement and maintain the SWMP actions.

DES should manage revenues generated by the sale of recyclable items, funds directly attributable to PAYT, and fees collected from special pickups.

### **Public Outreach and Education**

Public outreach and education is one of the primary SWMP actions to support increased source reduction, reuse, and recycling in the City over the next 20 years. The City of Falls Church will fund these promotional and educational efforts through the City’s General Fund. The ESC and Recycling Block Captains will assist with the development and distribution of educational materials.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Program**

The City of Falls Church plans to fund the establishment of a HHW collection program in the City. Funding for the staffing, location,

administration, education, and disposal contract costs will be covered by the City's General Fund.